Lesson

The Soldier

**Context:**

Grade: 12th

Course: Participation in government

**Objectives:**

* The students will understand that the soldiers make the greatest sacrifice during war.
* The students will use the literary novel All Quiet on the Western Front as well as primary sources to see the negative effects war has on soldiers
* The students will understand that soldiers are primary sources of knowledge.

**Rationale:**

The objectives are important because this allows the students to view war not just as battles and fighting but to hear the war from soldiers who were there. By introducing the human element, the goal is for the students to see that ultimately soldiers fight the wars and are the most impacted by them.

**Materials and Set-Up:**

Materials Needed

1. Handout #1-“We and the Germans met in the middle of no-man's-land."
2. Handout #2- Quotes from All Quiet on the Western Front

The classroom will be set up according to the groups the teacher creates for the students.

**Procedure: (Based on a 42 minute period)**

1. As the students enter the classroom they will copy down the Aim question, which will be “Can one really anticipate the affects of war?” and the Do Now question, “Why do you think countries fight wars?” The students will answer the Do Now question in their notebooks and once complete switch with the person sitting next to them. (Think, Pair, Share) (6mins)

2. The teacher will go on to explain that today they will be learning about whom really was affected most by the war.

Students will then break off into groups of 5. Half the class will receive the handout with quotes from Erich Remarque’s novel and the other half will receive the handout on meeting in the middle. They are to read each document and analyze the text. (14mins)

1. Next 2 members from each group will go to a new group who had the opposite reading and exchange what they have found. The goal is to introduce the other text to the new group. This activity requires the students to help each other learn. (12mins)
2. The class will then watch a brief video on YouTube showing Soldiers in the trenches.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XvHEUxIok00> (7mins) This is to show what the trenches were like for soldiers.

1. The remainder of the class the students will be introduced to PTSD. They will be informed that the following class will be about the effects of PTSD on soldiers coming home from active duty using the text given out today in class. (5mins)

**Assessment:**

There will be no formal assessment today.